



# *LINCOLN CHAFEE*

## *U.S. SENATOR*

### *RHODE ISLAND*

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Tuesday, July 26, 2005**

**CONTACT: Stephen Hourahan**  
**202-224-6167**

## **SENATOR CHAFEE URGES BUSH TO RELEASE ADDITIONAL LIHEAP FUNDING**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee yesterday joined a bipartisan group of senators in writing a letter to President George W. Bush requesting that he immediately release the \$47.6 million in emergency Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding remaining for 2005. Senator Chafee has requested this in response to heat waves across the Northeast and other regions which have made air-conditioning a necessity to survive the heat. This need has contributed to high energy costs facing low-income households, which this funding will help to make more affordable.

“Many low-income consumers entered this summer facing high energy debt due to the winter’s unaffordable energy prices and cold weather. The heat wave that affected the northeast and Midwest states this June, and the current heat wave affecting the nation, is adding to these households’ energy burdens, especially low-income seniors, as they must run air-conditioning to remain cool and safe,” the letter explains.

“As this summer’s heat wave has reached record levels in some areas, it is essential for these funds to be released to assist struggling Rhode Islanders and citizens across the United States in paying their energy bills this season,” Senator Chafee said.

“As Americans have endured record prices for oil, natural gas and propane this winter, many have been left in debt and many low-income, elderly, and disabled Rhode Islanders are in need of these funds to help them afford to cool their homes and battle intense heat, which poses a significant threat to the health of many of our citizens,” he continued.

Low-income Americans are disproportionately affected by rising energy costs, which consume a larger percentage of their income than that of the average household.

**-MORE-**

LIHEAP helps eligible families pay the costs of heating and insulating their homes in the winter and cooling in the summer. Nationally, more than 4.5 million low-income households receive assistance each year.

Individuals interested in applying for LIHEAP assistance should contact their local/state LIHEAP agency or click on the agency directory at:

[www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/liheap/directry.htm](http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/liheap/directry.htm). The directory can help people locate the state or tribal office that administers LIHEAP in communities across the country.

###